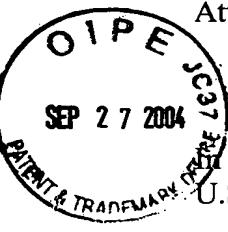


TPO  
2625

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. application: Daisaku HORIE

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

U.S. Serial No.: 10/044,503

Filed: January 10, 2002

Confirmation No.: 9303

Group Art Unit: 2625

Examiner: Yon Jung Couso

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

September 22, 2004

Date of Deposit

Douglas A. Sorensen

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative

Signature

September 22, 2004

Date of Signature

**REQUEST FOR STATUS OF PENDING APPLICATION**

Although this application was filed on January 10, 2002, the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) database indicates that as of September 22, 2004, a first Office Action has not been issued for this case.

The undersigned attorney of record respectfully requests the Examiner to advise when is it anticipated that a first Office Action will be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Douglas A. Sorensen  
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